United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1590
25 February 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General expresses outrage at shooting massacre by Israeli settler today at mosque in West Bank town of Hebron; Secretary-General calls for restraint by all parties so that autonomy talks can proceed between PLO and Israeli Government.

+ Security Council, in presidential statement on Liberia, welcomes agreement reached between Liberian parties and calls for adherence to timetable for transitional government; warns delays in implementing Cotonou Agreement endanger both its viability and support for UNOMIL.

+ President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Family Health and Planning Foundation of Turkey will share 1994 United Nations Population Award, for outstanding contributions to increasing awareness and solution of population problems.

+ Secretary-General decides to convene next round of peace talks between Government of Guatemala and opposition URNG from 3 to 7 March 1994 in Mexico; meeting to focus on human rights issues and timetable for considering remaining items of negotiation.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali this morning expressed revulsion and outrage at the shooting-massacre earlier today by an Israeli settler at the al-Ibrahim Mosque in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron. According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), preliminary reports indicate that 50 worshippers died as a result of the attack and about 10 other Palestinians were killed in subsequent outbreaks of violence. Over 300 people were reported injured by midday.

A United Nations spokesman said the Secretary-General was deeply concerned by the unrest generated throughout the occupied territories in reaction to the incident, and about the impact that might have on negotations beteen the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Israeli Government. He appealed for calm on the part of all concerned, so that the implementation

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of the Declaration of Principles on Palestinian Interim Self-Government Arrangements can proceed without delay. He also called on the Israeli authorities to take all necessary measures to ensure that settlers refrain from such criminal acts.

The Commissioner-General of the UNRWA, Ilter Türkmen, also expressed his profound concern and shock over the massacre today. He said the UNRWA had immediately directed its ambulances to the Hebron area and had sent blood and other medical supplies to the hospitals there. The Agency had also helped redeploy medical staff to assist in dealing with the influx of casualties. UNRWA's emergency teams were operating in the Hebron area and other West Bank areas declared closed military zones.

* * *

The Security Council, in a statement on the situation in Liberia read out today by its President, Roble Olhaye (Djibouti), welcomed the agreement recently reached between the Liberian parties. It called upon the parties to uphold strictly the timetable they accepted for the commencement of disarmament and the installation of a transitional government on 7 March, and the holding of free and fair elections on 7 September. It also urged them to resolve quickly their differences on the disposition of the four remaining Cabinet posts.

Expressing its grave concern at delays in the implementation of the Cotonou Agreement, the Council said that jeopardized both the viability of the Agreement and the ability of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) to carry out its mandate. The Council also expressed concern about the recent upsurge in violence in Liberia and the related disruption of humanitarian relief shipments. It called on all Liberian parties to strictly adhere to the cease-fire agreement, and to cooperate with international relief efforts.

Noting the central role given to the Economic Community of West African States' Monitoring Observer Group (ECOMOG) in the disarmament process under the Cotonou Agreement, the Council underlined the importance of disarmament to the successful implementation of the Agreement. It stated that UNOMIL's ability to carry out its mandate depended on the capacity of ECOMOG to discharge its responsibilities.

* * *

President Monamed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and the Family Health and Planning Foundation of Turkey will share the 1994 United Nations Population Award, in recognition of their contributions to the awareness and solution of population problems. The winners, announced yesterday, will receive a diploma, a gold medal and a monetary prize.

President Mubarak was honoured for his national and international leadership in population issues. He created the National Population Council when he became President of Egypt in 1981, and recently he established a

Ministry for Population and Family Affairs. During his two terms as President of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), he stressed the need to stabilize population growth. Egypt has been a firm supporter of international population stabilization policies, and he and his Government will host the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo this September.

The Family Health and Planning Foundation of Turkey was chosen for its achievements in improving the quality of family-planning services. Founded in 1985 by a group of eminent industrialists and scientists, the Foundation's mandate is to address the country's population challenges by developing education and media campaigns, and training courses for government and business leaders. It has also developed its own contraceptive distribution service, linking its family-planning activities to a broader range of services including maternal and child health care and nutrition.

* * *

Following consultations with the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG), the Secretary-General has decided to convene the next round of the Guatemalan peace talks from 3 to 7 March 1994. According to a United Nations spokesman, the Government of Mexico has offered to host the meeting. As agreed by the parties on 10 January, that meeting will focus on reaching an agreement on human rights issues and on a timetable for the consideration of all outstanding items on the agenda for the negotiations.

In the Framework Agreement of 10 January, the parties asked the Secretary-General to select a moderator for their peace talks. He appointed Jean Arnault, who had been participating in the negotiations as the United Nations observer since June 1992.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1591
28 February 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ NATO jets shoot down four aircraft violating "no-fly" zone in Bosnia and Herzegovina, after repeated warnings; Force Commander stresses that UNPROFOR activities will not be affected by incident.

+ United Nations launches revised inter-agency appeal for Angola, seeking $179 million for emergency humanitarian aid; revision due to increased scope of assistance, with 3 million now in need of help compared with 2 million last May.

+ Special Commission investigators find no evidence that Iraqi forces used chemical weapons against opposition elements in marsh region of Southern Iraq; investigation follows allegations of chemical attack last September.

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North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) jets shot down four aircraft near Banja Luka in central Bosnia and Herzegovina early this morning. According to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) Force Commander, General Jean Cot, NATO fighters attached to "Operation Deny Flight" engaged six Galeb ground support aircraft flying in violation of Security Council resolution 816 (1993), which prohibits unauthorized flights by all fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters in the airspace of Bosnia and Herzogovina.

According to a United Nations spokesman, the Galeb aircraft ignored two warnings by the NATO fighters and subsequently four of the Galebs were shot down. He said it was not known where the other two planes had landed. During the operation, he said, the NATO fighters followed agreed procedures relating to the "no-fly" zone.

General Cot stressed that UNPROFOR remained commited to continuing the peace process and that the incident would have no effect on UNPROFOR activities thoughout Croatia and Bosnia and Herzogovina.

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The United Nations today launched the 1994 revised consolidated inter-agency appeal for Angola, seeking $179 million for emergency humanitarian aid. According to a United Nations spokesman, the revised appeal -- an updated version of the one-year programme issued last May -- is needed due to changes in the scope and nature of the humanitarian activities in the country. At least 3.3 million Angolans currently require some kind of relief assistance, compared to 2 million identified last May. The largest increase has been registered among the internally displaced, who now number over 950,000.

When the original appeal was issued last May, information on the overall conditions and humanitarian needs was scant due to lack of access and poor security conditions in different areas. Since then, negotiations on access and some decrease in the level of fighting between Governments forces and those of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) have enabled relief agencies to reach most locations in need of help.

* * *

After an investigation carried out in the marshes in Southern Iraq, the Special Commission dealing with the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction reported today that it had found no evidence that chemical weapons had been used in the region. The investigation was undertaken in November 1993 after the Commission received allegations that the Iraqi military had used chemical warfare agents against opposition forces in the marsh region in the previous September.

A fact-finding mission was sent to Iran and to carry out an on-site inspection in Iraq. Portable sensors used during the investigation detected no chemical warfare agents and the team concluded that it was unlikely that a chemical weapons attack had taken place at the site in question. However, in order to confirm that finding, a large number of samples of flora, fauna, water, air and soil samples were taken for laboratory analysis. Three laboratories -- in the United States, the United Kingdom and France -- were involved in the tests, and they confirmed the on-site findings, that there were no traces of chemical warfare agents in the samples.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1592
1 March 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council discusses situation in occupied Arab territories following massacre at Al-Ibrahimi Mosque; Observer for Palestine calls for urgent and decisive measures to save peace process, including disarmament of settlers and dismantling of settlements.

+ Secretary-General calls for immediate release of four United Nations staff members detained by Sudanese People's Liberation Army.

+ Secretary-General appoints Benon Sevan as Assistant Secretary-General in Department for Administration and Management.

+ WHO and UNOSOM II launch major campaign against cholera outbreak in Somalia; 23 cases and eight deaths reported in Bulo Burti.

* * *

The Security Council met last night to discuss the situation in the occupied Arab territories following the attack last Friday on the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, in which more than 50 people were killed. The Observer for Palestine said the Council and Israel should take urgent and decisive measures to save the peace process in the wake of the massacre. He said the Israeli Government should adopt real changes in policy regarding settlements and settlers in the occupied territories, and emphasized that the settlers must be disarmed and the settlements dismantled.

The representative of Israel condemned the "criminal murder" of Palestinian worshippers, which he stressed was committed by a single individual. He told the Council that extremists on both sides believed they could derail the peace process, but stressed that they were wrong. The Israeli Government had authorized a number of steps in response to the massacre, including the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry and the adoption of measures against radical elements in the territories. He called on the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table and to put an end to 100 years of war and terrorism.

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The observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) said that if the massacre was allegedly the act of a lunatic, there were a "few thousand more lunatics" brandishing assault weapons and attacking innocents in a territory to which they had no legitimate claim.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today called for the immediate release of four Sudanese United Nations staff members detained by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army. The four were part of a United Nations Operation Lifeline Sudan team which was detained last Thursday while vaccinating children and carrying out an assessment of humanitarian needs in the Attar area.

After learning that the team had been detained, the United Nations demanded the release of its personnel and sent an aircraft to evacuate them. However, only one person, an international staff member, was released.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Benon Sevan as Assistant Secretary-General in the Department for Administration and Management. Mr. Sevan, a national of Cyprus, will act as Security Coordinator and oversee the preparation of a number of reports on restructuring and related issues requested by the General Assembly for submission in the coming months. He will also collaborate with the Officer-in-Charge in the overall management of the Department.

Mr. Sevan was appointed Assistant Secretary-General in the Department of Political Affairs in July 1992, with particular responsibility for General Assembly and Security Council affairs. He previously served as the Secretary-General's Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

* * *

There has been a serious outbreak of cholera in Somalia and the World Health Organization (WHO) is coordinating a major campaign against the disease, a United Nations spokesman said today. Local authorities have formed a commission to manage the outbreak in Mogadishu, while the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) and its humanitarian partners have stepped up a public awareness campaign in Kismayo in an effort to halt the epidemic.

WHO representatives yesterday reported 23 cases of cholera and eight deaths in Bulo Burti, the spokesman noted.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1593
2 March 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ As Security Council continues to discuss situation in occupied territories, Lebanon says Israel must disarm settlers or jettison Middle East peace process; several States call for international presence to protect Palestinian people.

+ Secretary-General and Co-Chairmen of International Conference on Former Yugoslavia welcome Bosnian accord signed yesterday in Washington.

+ Human Rights Commission, meeting in Geneva, adopts three resolutions dealing with right to development, economic, social and cultural rights and minority rights.

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The Security Council last night resumed its discussion on the situation in the occupied territories following the recent attack on the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, in which more than 50 people were killed. Explaining why his Government had suspended talks with Israel, the representative of Lebanon told the Council that Israel must decide between disarming all settlers or jettisoning the entire Middle East peace process. He also called for the establishment of an international presence in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. Referring to a bomb attack in his country two days after the massacre, he said "the forces which have tried over the years to destabilize Lebanon are behind this bombing, in order to divert attention away from the massacre at Al-Ibrahimi".

The representatives of Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates and Libya joined the call for an international presence to protect the Palestinian people, saying the settlements must be dismantled and all settlers returned to Israel.

Some speakers asserted that the massacre at the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque had not been perpetrated by an individual madman since the Israeli Government had allowed him to carry a weapon and enter the Mosque. They also charged that Israeli soldiers had participated in the attack and had later killed protesting Palestinians. Saying Israel had violated numerous Security Council

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For information media--not an official record

resolutions, speakers called on the Council to shoulder its responsibilities under the United Nations Charter in response to the situation in the occupied territories.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the accord signed yesterday in Washington by the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Croats to unite territories under their control. In remarks to the press last night, the Secretary-General described the accord as "a very positive initiative."

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, also welcomed the accord, and expressed gratitude to the United States for facilitating it. They said it was important that the two parties were reviving a relationship which had been strained by intense fighting in Central Bosnia and Mostar since last year.

However, the Co-Chairmen stressed that peace would not be achieved in Bosnia and Herzegovina until the three constituent peoples of the Republic agreed to a comprehensive settlement. They said they would help all three parties to settle their differences, with the continuing assistance of the United States and the Russian Federation. In that regard, they welcomed the agreement reached yesterday in Moscow to reopen Tuzla airport.

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At a meeting in Geneva yesterday, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights adopted three resolutions dealing with the right to development, economic, social and cultural rights and minority rights. With regard to development, the Commission urged the Working Group on the Right to Development to take into account policies to foster an international economic climate responsive to the needs of developing countries. The Commission also decided to invite heads of international financial institutions to participate in future sessions of the Working Group.

In its resolution on economic, social and cultural rights, the Commission noted the conclusions of the seminar on indicators to measure the realization of those rights held in Geneva in January 1993. It also recognized the importance of using indicators as referred to in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. Regarding minority rights, the Commission urged States to give effect to the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. It also called on States to consider concluding bilateral and multilateral arrangements or agreements in order to protect those rights.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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3 March 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Special Representative for former Yugoslavia says UNPROFOR needs 10,600 extra personnel if progress is to continue in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Member States should take concrete action in support of peace.

+ Speakers call for international presence to protect Palestinians as Security Council continues discussion on occupied territories following Hebron Mosque attack.

+ Secretary-General calls on warring groups in Afghanistan to stop fighting immediately in order to end humanitarian emergency; asks Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance to secure access for aid deliveries.

+ Secretary-General congratulates Chief Buthelezi and Nelson Mandela on outcome of their meeting Tuesday; hails President de Klerk's efforts to promote political process in South Africa; pledges continued United Nations support ahead of April elections.

+ Ford Fundation and Yale University, at request of Secretary-General, form Independent Working Group on Future of United Nations; will examine Organization's future in context of global changes since 1945.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, today appealed to Member States to contribute additional personnel to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). In a press briefing in Zagreb today, he stressed that UNPROFOR would need additional resources and personnel as well as the cooperation of the Bosnian parties if existing cease-fire agreements were to hold and progress to continue.

Mr. Akashi said UNPROFOR required 10,600 additional personnel, of which 4,600 were needed in Sarajevo alone. He expressed gratitude to the States which were already participating in the peace-keeping operation. However, he continued, "we need more, and it's a real test case for Member States to show

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For information media—not an official record

whether their protestations of peace are really backed up by concrete acts and actions." Ideally, the additional personnel would not come from neighboring States, or from States which had had historically special relationships with any of the parties in conflict, he added.

* * *

The Security Council last night held its third meeting on the situation in the occupied Arab territories following last Friday's attack at a Mosque in Hebron, which resulted in more than 50 deaths. Many speakers called for the establishment of an international presence to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The representative of Malaysia said Israel should not reject the proposed international presence if it truly sought a lasting and peaceful solution to the conflict. Ukraine called on the parties to return to the negotiating table, stressing that failure to do so would only encourage extremists. Syria said Israel continued to offer peace in exchange for Arab concessions, rather than peace for land. Israel sought to restore diplomatic relations with Syria, but had indicated that it would leave the question of the Golan Heights to a referendum, as if the matter were a domestic one to be decided by Israeli voters. Bosnia and Herzegovina said the terrorist shelling of Sarajevo and the terrorist massacre in Hebron demonstrated the need to confront ultra-nationalist chauvinism and violence.

The representative of Greece, speaking on behalf of the European Union, expressed outrage over the attack at the Mosque. Although the Israeli authorities had condemned the violence, they must assume responsibility. Israel should act to stabilize the situation in the occupied territories, and should allow an international presence there. The Iranian representative that the attack had been premeditated and led by the elements from "the Zionist army." The Council should call for the liberation of occupied Palestine, the dismantling of Zionist settlements and the return of Palestinian refugees to their homeland, Iran said.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today called on all warring groups in Afghanistan to stop fighting immediately and to resolve their problems peacefully, so as to end the current humanitarian emergency there. He expressed serious concern at the suffering being inflicted on the population of Kabul and at the disruption of humanitarian aid deliveries in the city.

The Secretary-General has asked Sotirios Mousouris, Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan, to continue efforts to obtain unhindered and secure access to all areas in need of humanitarian aid and to report any instances where such access is denied.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has congratulated Chief Mongosuthu Buthelezi, President of the Inkatha Freedom Party of South Africa, and Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) on the positive outcome of a meeting between the two on Tuesday. In letters to Chief Buthelezi and Mr. Mandela dated 2 March, the Secretary-General welcomed the development of a framework for all political parties to participate in the transitional arrangements, including the electoral process. The "bold initiatives" undertaken would promote national reconciliation and peace in South Africa.

The Secretary-General also wrote to South African President Frederik Willem de Klerk acknowledging his efforts to ensure that all political parties participated in the transitional arrangements. He assured the three leaders that the United Nations would continue to support the peace process in South Africa so that free and fair elections could take place next April.

* * *

Responding to a request by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the Ford Fundation and Yale University announced today the formation of an Independent Working Group on the Future of the United Nations. The 12-member Working Group will examine the future of the United Nations in the context of major changes that have taken place since 1945 and update the original vision of the Organization. It will be co-chaired by the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Moeen Qureshi, and the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Richard von Weizsacker.

The Working Group will consider how the United Nations should meet challenges to worldwide peace, security and human welfare at the turn of the century. Staff will be based at the United Nations Studies Programme at Yale University and will consult with experts from organizations and research institutions worldwide. The Group's final report, which will be issued next year, will be distributed to all Member States.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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4 March 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, by unanimous resolution, decides that certain Iraqi citizens displaced by demarcation of Iraq-Kuwait border can receive compensation notwithstanding prohibition on remittal of funds.

+ Fifth Committee approves draft decisions by which General Assembly would authorize Secretary-General, on exceptional basis, to commit up to $200 million to maintain five peace-keeping operations this month.

+ Secretary-General's Senior Political Adviser reiterates need for additional personnel for UNPROFOR; says no possible contributors have been ruled out.

+ UNHCR warns that humanitarian effort in Jalalabad could be overwhelmed by Afghan war refugees; seeks $6 million for existing relief operations.

+ Bosnia and Herzogovina, in letter to Security Council, says Sarajevo cease-fire is being blatantly violated; asks Council to ensure compliance by Serb forces and implementation of relevant resolutions.

+ Commission on Status of Women to hold thirty-eighth session at Headquarters from 7 to 18 March; United Nations to commemorate International Women's Day on 8 March with "Women in Power" forum.

* * *

The Security Council today decided that compensation payments can be made to certain Iraqi citizens relocated from Kuwait to Iraq as a result of the demarcation of the international boundary between the two States. The Council took that action, under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, by unanimously adopting resolution 899 (1994). In doing so, the Council concurred with the Secretary-General's view that such payments would be for humanitarian purposes and could be made notwithstanding resolution 991 (1991), which prohibited the remittal of funds to persons or bodies in Iraq.

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The Secretary-General expressed his view on the matter in a letter to the Council dated 22 February, in which he described arrangements for the payments to be made. After an assessment by an independent contractor, he determined that the relocated citizens would receive a total of 56 million Iraqi dinars for 95 farms and 15.5 million Iraqi dinars for 206 residential houses. Kuwait will pay that money into a trust fund established for the purpose and will cover all costs incurred by the United Nations as a result.

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Acting without a vote, the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) today approved five draft decisions by which the General Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General, on an exceptional basis, to commit almost $200 million to maintain five peace-keeping operations this month. The Secretary-General could commit up to $97 million gross for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR); almost $76 million for the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II); almost $21 million for the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ); some $3 million for the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL); and more than $2 million for the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM).

By the drafts, the Assembly would agree to decide on the question of assessments for the missions if decisions on their financing have not been made by 11 March for UNPROFOR and ONUMOZ, and by 15 March for UNOSOM II, ONUSAL, and UNIKOM, subject to the availability of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). The Assembly would also express deep concern at the current level of arrears of contributions, and would urge Member States in arrears to pay them promptly and in full.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Senior Political Adviser, Alvaro de Soto, today reiterated an appeal to Member States to contribute additional personnel to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). Yesterday, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, said UNPROFOR would need an extra 10,600 personnel if existing cease-fire agreements were to be upheld.

Mr. de Soto told correspondents at Headquarters that the United Nations was "strapped for peace-keeping troops" in the former Yugoslavia and had been studying ways to tackle the problem with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Potential contributors had been approached in recent weeks, and no possible sources had been ruled out, he said. The number of personnel needed would depend on such factors as the situation on the ground, progress in negotiations, the availability of equipment, and future Security Council decisions.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today warned that the increase in the number of people fleeing fighting in Kabul and other areas in Afghanistan threatened to overwhelm the humanitarian relief effort in the eastern city of Jalalabad. The UNHCR said it desperately needed $6 million to cover current emergency relief operations.

Since 1 January, at least 600,000 persons have been displaced and refugees are arriving in Jalalabad at the rate of 1,600 a day, according to the UNHCR. There are shortages of food and water, and movement in refugee camps is being hindered by mines and unexploded ordnance. People fleeing into the countryside from Kabul are also being stranded in many areas by fighting and heavy snow.

* * *

Bosnia and Herzogovina's Permanent Represenative to the United Nations has told the Security Council that the conditions of the Sarajevo cease-fire are been blantantly violated. In a letter to the Council dated 3 March, he charged that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) had failed to locate six Serbian tanks concealed within the "exclusion zone." Those tanks had later been driven past United Nations observers who made no attempt to neutralize them or to place them under United Nations control. Furthermore, four grenades had been fired on Sarajevo on Wednesday.

The Bosnian Representative went on to say that the excessive flexibility granted to Serbian forces with regard to the cease-fire only encouraged further trangressions. The trend by Serbian forces of partial compliance with, followed by total disregard for the cease-fire had been well documented. He asked the Security Council to ensure that Serbian forces complied with the provisions of the cease-fire in Sarajevo and that the terms of relevant resolutions were fully implemented.

* * *

The Commission on the Status of Women will hold its thirty-eighth session at Headquarters from 7 to 18 March. Among the items to be addressed are preparations for the fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, and the monitoring of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. Under the themes of equality, development and peace, the Commission will consider such issues as equal pay, women in urban areas, and violence against women.

Meanwhile, the United Nations will commemorate International Women's Day on 8 March with a public forum at Headquarters entitled "Women in Power." The forum will highlight women in government and focus on obstacles to women achieving an equal share in decision-making. Speakers will include President Mary Robinson of Ireland; Madeleine Albright, United States Ambassador to the United Nations; and Gertrude Mongella, Secretary-General of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will mark International Women's Day by renewing his commitment to the advancement of women to professional posts in the United Nations. Last year, he asked the Office of Human Resources Management for a plan to improve the status of women in the Secretariat. Measures being considered include succession planning, advertising to attract qualified candidates, exceptions to the recruitment freeze and consideration of women who have served elsewhere in the United Nations system.

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United Nations

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7 March 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in resolution adopted on Friday, asks Secretary-General to appoint civilian official to help restore public services in Sarajevo; calls for complete freedom of movement in city.

+ Security Council extends UNOMIG mandate to 31 March; asks Secretary-General to report on Georgian-Abkhaz peace talks, with view to possible peace-keeping deployment.

+ Secretary-General, meeting with Haitian President, reiterates support for Governor's Island Agreement; initiative by Haitian Parliamentarians seen as way to break deadlock, not as substitute for Agreement.

+ Four United Nations staff members released in good health after being detained in Sudan; unknown gunmen hold UNICEF staff member in Afghanistan.

+ UNOSOM II Cholera Management Committee reports hundreds of cases and eighty deaths as disease spreads in Somalia.

+ Commission on Human Rights, meeting in Geneva, adopts resolutions dealing with freedom of expression, torture, and protection of minorities; appoints Special Rapporteur on detention and imprisonment.

* * *

The Security Council has asked the Secretary-General to appoint a senior civilian official to assist in restoring essential public services in Sarajevo, and to report within 10 days on procedures to extend the protection given that city to the towns of Maglaj, Mostar and Vitez. The Council took that action, under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, by unanimously adopting resolution 900 (1994) on Friday evening. The official will act under the Secretary-General's Special Representative in conjunction with the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in consultation with local authorities. His mandate excludes the city of Pale.

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The resolution called on all parties, with the assistance of the United Nations, to achieve complete freedom of movement for the civilian population and humanitarian goods to, from and within Sarajevo, and to help restore normal life there. It called on States and donors to assist the Secretary-General by contributing personnel and equipment in the implementation of relevant resolutions. The Council also called on all parties to cooperate with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in consolidation of the cease-fire in and around Sarajevo.

A number of Council members expressed disappointment that the resolution had been weakened in order to ensure support. The Bosnian representative said partial implementation of the resolution in question and of other resolutions would make the Council an unwitting party to the siege of Sarajevo. He also said that while his country welcomed the assistance of all Governments, it would not be bound by agreements between the aggressor forces and members of the Council unless they were consistent with Bosnia's territorial integrity.

* * *

In a second meeting on Friday evening, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) until 31 March. By unanimously adopting resolution 901 (1994), the Council asked the Secretary-General to report to it on progress made in the negotiations between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides and on the situation on the ground. The report -- due by 21 March -- is to pay special attention to circumstances which might warrant the deployment of a peace-keeping force.

In a previous resolution, the Council had extended UNOMIG's mandate until 7 March and had asked the Secretary-General to report to it immediately after the third round of negotiations between the two parties. Noting that negotiations between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides were due to resume in New York today, the Council urged the two parties to achieve a political settlement, based on the principles set out in previous resolutions. The Council said such progess would allow it to consider the establishment of a peace-keeping force in Abkhazia.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had a meeting on Saturday with Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, during which he reiterated the support of the United Nations for the implementation of the Governor's Island Agreement, according to a spokesman for the Organization.

The Secretary-General had previously been informed by a representative group of Haitian Parliamentarians of an initiative to unblock the Haitian crisis within the framework of the Agreement. He had brought that initiative to the attention of the Security Council as a way of breaking the deadlock and promoting implementation of the Governor's Island Agreement -- not as a substitute for it. The initiative had since been endorsed by the Haitian

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Chamber of Deputies. During Saturday's meeting, President Aristide expressed the view that the Parliamentarians' initiative did not conform with the Governor's Island Agreement, and that it was counter-productive.

The United Nations spokesman said the Secretary-General and the President would continue to explore ways to resolve the Haitian crisis.

* * *

Four Sudanese United Nations staff members recently detained by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army have been released and are in good health, a United Nations spokesman announced today. The four, part of a United Nations Operation Lifeline Sudan team, had been detained late last month while vaccinating children and carrying out an assessment of humanitarian needs in the Attar area.

However, the spokesman went on to say that the Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Office in Kabul, Afghanistan -- a staff member of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and an Afghan national -- had been detained by unknown gunmen. He deplored the incident and called for the staff member's immediate release.

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The Cholera Managment Committee established by the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) to monitor the situation in the country today released statistics on the disease. In Bassano, there have been 585 cases and 17 deaths; in Belet Wayne, 222 cases and 40 deaths; in Bula Burti, 57 cases and 11 deaths; and in Mogadishu, 103 cases and 12 deaths.

A United Nations spokesman said two cholera experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) had arrived in Mogadishu to strengthen the WHO presence in Somalia. Other efforts to combat the disease, including the chlorination of water tanks and wells, were moving ahead. A public information programme had also been launched to increase awareness of the disease.

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At a meeting in Geneva on Friday, the Commission on Human Rights adopted a series of resolutions on such issues as freedom of opinion and expression, torture and degrading treatment, the protection of minorities, and respect for the human rights of United Nations personnel.

In a resolution dealing with contemporary forms of slavery, the Commission invited Member States to consider protecting particularly vulnerable groups, such as children and migrant women, against exploitation in prostitution and other practices. Another resolution urged Governments to establish national committees and other mechanisms to ensure that the aims of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People were planned and implemented in full partnership with indigenous people.

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The Commission expressed concern at the extensive use of threats and acts of violence and harassment against persons who exercise the right to freedom of opinion and expression. It also adopted a resolution appointing a Special Rapporteur on detention and imprisonment, with a three-year term. All the resolutions were adopted without a vote.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1597
8 March 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ As United Nations marks International Women's Day, Secretary-General says recognition of equal rights has not yet benefited women worldwide; President of Ireland says greater participation by women in politics would mean more emphasis on the rule of law over force.

+ Commission on Human Rights decides to appoint Special Rapporteur on violence against women, in resolution on integrating women's rights into United Nations mechanisms.

+ Special Commission inspection team assesses missile production capabilities at 14 sites in Iraq; seeks to identify effective monitoring procedures.

+ UNHCR appeals to donor nations to release funds pledged for repatriation of 700,000 Liberian refugees; launches emergency airlift to aid refugees returning to Burundi after ethnic violence last year.

+ Special Committee on United Nations Charter, beginning annual session, elects Francis Muthaura of Kenya as Chairman; to focus on aid to States affected by sanctions and cooperation with regional organizations.

+ Secretary-General says Global Conference on Small Island Developing States will test international commitment to UNCED plan of action; urges high-level representation by Member States.

* * *

Despite a formal recognition of women's rights and a legal acceptance of women's equality with men, the lives of millions of women had not benefited from those those changes, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today. Institutional sexism continued to deny women an equal share of power and decision-making in legislative chambers, governments and in public service.

Speaking at a public forum held at Headquarters to commemorate International Women's Day, the Secretary-General said the United Nations needed a more dynamic link between research into the status of women and

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For information media—not an official record

action to promote equality for its programmes to be vigorous and effective. Recognition of the equality and dignity of women must be an integral part of all programmes -- for development, peace, security, democracy and human rights.

President Mary Robinson of Ireland said International Women's Day was not a form of tokenism but was helpful in highlighting the problems of women all over the world. Both genders would benefit from the increasing role women played in the public sector. With more women in politics, there would be greater emphasis on human rights generally, with more concerm for minority rights and the rule of law over force.

Meanwhile, General Assembly President S. R. Insanally today said that while there was increased awareness of the many issues concerning women, the problems they encountered continued to be pervasive. In a statement marking International Women's Day, he noted that the theme of the 1995 Beijing Women's Conference -- Action for Equality, Development and Peace -- would address the areas in which greater action was needed.

* * *

The Commission on Human Rights has decided to appoint a Special Rapporteur on violence against women. The Commission took that action at a meeting in Geneva on Friday, under a resolution on integrating the rights of women into the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations. It also condemned all violations of the human rights of women in armed conflicts, and called for an effective response to violations including murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy.

The Commission adopted a number of other resolutions on Friday, including measures relating to the protection of the human rights of women, HIV/AIDS, terrorism, strengthening the rule of law, and strengthening the Centre for Human Rights. It also took action in connection with the human rights situation in Albania and Cambodia, and assistance in the field of human rights to Guatemala, Georgia and Somalia.

* * *

An ballistic missile inspection team dispatched by the Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq has recently assessed the capabilities of 14 sites in and around Baghdad and their potential use in the production of missiles. The team, led by Patrice Palanque of France and comprised of 14 experts from the United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia and Ukraine, conducted the inspections between 17 and 25 February.

The sites inspected were identified by the Special Commission as possible support facilities for missile production activities. The team sought to identify effective monitoring procedures, and the data assembled will help the Commission to plan for ongoing monitoring and verification operations.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today appealed to major donor States to release funds pledged for the voluntary repatriation of some 700,000 Liberian refugees scattered in five countries. Under the terms of last year's Cotonou Peace Agreement, the UNHCR is responsible for repatriating refugees before elections next September. However, it has received only 10 per cent of the $60 million needed for the operation.

There are currently some 415,000 Liberian refugees in Guinea, 250,000 in Côte d'Ivoire, 20,000 in Ghana, 6,000 in Sierra Leone, and 3,000 in Nigeria.

Meanwhile, the UNHCR today launched an emergency airlift to aid refugees returning to Burundi after fleeing ethnic violence last year. More than 200,000 refugees have spontaneously returned to the country since tensions eased earlier this year. A total of seven flights will carry supplies from Amsterdam to Bujumbura, from where they will be transported to northern Burundi.

* * *

The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization yesterday began its annual session at Headquarters. The 47-member Special Committee elected Francis Muthaura (Kenya) as Chairman and approved the participation of 22 Member States and five inter-governmental organizations as observers in its work.

The Special Committee is mandated to examine issues relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the strengthening of the role of the Organization. In an opening statement, Hans Corell, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, said the Committee's work was particularly relevant in light of the Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Peace" and recent Security Council and General Assembly decisions.

During the three-week session, the Committee is expected to give priority attention to such issues as assistance to third States affected by sanctions and the enhancement of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali yesterday said that the upcoming Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States would test the international community's determination to act on commitments made at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). In a message to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, which will begin in Barbados on 25 April, he said a true global partnership would be needed if small island developing States were to have a sustainable, secure and equitable future. He therefore urged Member States to be represented at the Conference at the highest possible level.

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UNCED had acknowledged the special case of small island developing States because of their ecologically fragile and vulnerable nature, small size, geographic isolation and limited resources, the Secretary-General noted. As a result, it had been agreed that those States warranted special cooperation and assistance from the international community.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1598
9 March 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ President of Georgia tells Security Council that Abkhazia conflict must be resolved within framework of integral Georgian State, with provision for peaceful return of displaced persons; international peace-keepers should be deployed throughout region.

+ General Assembly authorizes Secretary-General, on exceptional basis, to commit almost $200 million to maintain five United Nations peace-keeping missions this month; asks States and international organizations to aid earthquake relief in Uganda.

+ Commission on Human Rights adopts resolutions on racial discrimination and intolerance, and on human rights situations in Cuba, Sudan and Myanmar; Chairman expresses concern about allegations of rights violations in East Timor.

+ Secretary-General, in report on good offices mission in Cyprus, urges agreement on confidence-building measures for Varosha and Nicosia Airport; says implementation would lead to political and economic gains.

+ WFP appeals for increased contributions of food and cash, saying 35 million people in 46 countries will need emergency aid this year.

* * *

Eduard Shevardnadze, Chairman of the Parliament and Head of State of Georgia, today told the Security Council that any answer to the situation in Abkhazia must provide for the peaceful return of displaced persons, and a political solution for Abkhazia within the framework of an integral Georgian State. Addressing the Council as it considered the situation in Georgia, he said international peace-keeping forces should be deployed throughout the region.

President Shevardnadze said that elections should be held under international control and that a provisional joint administration of Abkhazia should be established under an international directorate. The Government had already granted broad rights in Abkhazia, and was prepared to grant even

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For information media—not an official record

broader ones, while preserving Georgia's territorial integrity. The conflict was not an ethnic or national one, but had arisen around issues of property and power. By ending it, the Council would help to resolve similar conflicts and to prevent a chain reaction in other regions.

The representative of the Russian Federation also called on the international community to take immediate action to deal with the Abkhazia conflict, saying the Council should deploy a full-scale peace-keeping operation. Several speakers supported such an action, on the understanding that substantial progress would be made in negotiations for an overall political settlement. Such a settlement should be based on the unconditional return of displaced persons, respect for Georgia's territorial integrity and political sovereignty, and protection of ethnic groups.

* * *

The General Assembly today authorized the Secretary-General, on an exceptional basis, to commit almost $200 million to maintain five United Nations peace-keeping and related missions this month. The Assembly took that action by adopting, without a vote, five draft decisions previously approved by the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary).

The Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to commit up to $97 million gross for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR); almost $76 million for the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II); almost $21 million for the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ); some $3 million for the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL); and more than $2 million for the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM).

Also today, the Assembly adopted a resolution asking all States and international organizations to urgently provide relief assistance to earthquake victims in Uganda. Another resolution set a $1.5-billion target for voluntary contributions to the World Food Programme (WFP) for 1995-1996, with at least one third in cash and/or services.

* * *

The Commission on Human Rights, meeting in Geneva, today adopted a resolution to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, any form of discrimination against Blacks, Arabs and Muslims, negrophobia, anti-semitism and related intolerence. The Commission asked its Special Rapporteur to examine incidents of discrimination and intolerence, as well as government measures to overcome them, and to report to it at its fifty-first session.

The Commission also adopted resolutions on the human rights situations in individual States. It expressed regret regarding rights violations in Cuba, particularly intolerance for freedom of speech and assembly, and concern at reports of grave violations in Sudan, particularly summary executions,

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detentions without trial and torture. The Commission deplored the serious situation in Myanmar, particularly the fact that a number of political leaders there remained deprived of their liberty.

Also today, the Commission Chairman issued a statement expressing concern about continuing allegations of human rights violations in East Timor, while recognizing positive measures undertaken by the Indonesian government to improve the situation there. The Commission was concerned at the incomplete information on the number of people killed and still unaccounted for as a result of the violent incident in Dili in 1991. He called on the Indonesian authorities to ensure that the East Timorese still in custody were treated humanely and that their rights were respected.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has urged that current proximity talks between the two communities in Cyprus be concluded quickly so that a package of confidence-building measures can be implemented. The package, which has already been accepted in principle, includes the reopening of the fenced area of Varosha and of Nicosia International Airport. In a report on his mission of good offices in Cyprus dated 4 March, he said an agreement between the two sides would be the most important development on the island in two decades.

The Secretary-General went on to say that the confidence-building measures would facilitate a political settlement on the island. They would also produce important economic gains for both sides and promote the kind of relationship that should exist in a federation.

* * *

The World Food Programme (WFP) has appealed for increased contributions of food and cash for the emergency relief of millions of people at risk of starvation. WFP Executive Director Catherine Bertini said yesterday that more than 24 million people in Africa would need emergency food relief this year, and that the international community would have to double its efforts there to avert large-scale suffering.

According to the WFP, some 35 million people in 46 countries will need emergency food assistance in 1994. About 80 per cent of that food will be directed to people afflicted by war and civil strife, with the rest going to those affected by drought and other natural disasters. Most of those in need are women and children and many are displaced people or refugees living in camps.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1599
10 March 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ UNHCR condemns refusal by warring parties to allow humanitarian convoys to reach Maglaj-Tesanj pocket in Bosnia and Herzegovina; trucks blocked by Bosnian Serbs forced to return to base today.

+ United Kingdom sending 900 troops to reinforce UNPROFOR, citing positive developments and growing needs in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Committee on Racial Discrimination asks Israel to report by 30 June on measures to guarantee safety of Palestinians in occupied territories; examines ethnic unrest in Burundi.

+ Secretary-General's report says communications mechanism developed by Commission on Status of Women is "early warning system" for policy questions.

+ Secretary-General urges international community to accelerate flow of aid for reconstruction in Cambodia.

+ Special Committee on United Nations Charter grants observer status to Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Syria; OAU to participate in debate on cooperation with regional organizations.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, today condemned the refusal by warring parties to allow humanitarian convoys to reach tens of thousands of people trapped for months in the Maglaj-Tesanj pocket of north-central Bosnia. Ten trucks trying to reach Maglaj were forced to return to base today after being blocked for three days by Bosnian Serbs. No UNHCR convoy has reached the town since last October.

"Getting help to these people is a priority, and we call on the international community to join us in putting pressure on all sides to cooperate so that the terrible suffering can end," said Ms. Ogata. "In the past few weeks, the delivery of humanitarian aid has improved over most of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but Maglaj stands out as a stark exception."

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For information media—not an official record

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The United Kingdom today announced that it would send a battalion of 900 troops to reinforce the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Central Bosnia. Advance elements of the battalion, which will include engineers, signals and support troops and a reconnaissance squadron, will arrive in Split by tonight. The United Kingdom currently has 2,450 personnel deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The United Kingdom said that following recent positive developments on the ground, UNPROFOR's task had expanded greatly and its resources had become over-stretched in Sarajevo and Central Bosnia. Reinforcement had become an immediate issue for the United Nations, and the decision to deploy an additional battalion was the United Kingdom's response.

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The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has asked Israel to report to it by 30 June on measures to guarantee the safety of Palestinians in the occupied territories. Israel is also to report on its efforts to disarm Israeli settlers and to end their illegal actions. The Committee took that decision, at a meeting in Geneva on Monday, in light of the recent massacre of Palestinian worshippers in Hebron.

Yesterday, the Committee examined the situation in Burundi, describing ethnic unrest there as "catastrophic". The country's representative said ethnic violence had remained taboo to the authorities for years because they had denied the existence of ethnic groups. The Country Rapporteur and expert from India said that the enormity of the warfare in Burundi overshadowed the crises in Bosnia, Angola and Somalia. However, reform of the army, an end to arms trafficking, the consolidation of the democratic process, and repatriation of refugees would lead to peace and reconstruction.

* * *

The Commission on the Status of Women has been expanding its communications mechanism with a view to implementing forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women, which were adopted in Nairobi. In a report dated 1 March, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali outlined the steps taken by the Commission to publicize that mechanism, which was different from the one used by the Commission on Human Rights.

The Secretary-General noted that the Commission sought to provide individuals and organizations with a means of informing it about patterns of injustice and discrimination against women which could result in new policy measures. It used confidential and non-confidential communications from those individuals and organizations detailing complaints, protests and requests for action, or suggestions and offers of cooperation. He described the communications mechanism as a form of "early warning system" on policy questions. It also made it easier for women, who were not always well represented in Governments, to bring their concerns before the Commission.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has urged the international community to respond speedily and effectively to help Cambodia in the task of nation-building. He said donors should accelerate the flow of technical, financial, and other aid to the Cambodian Government, and to provide it in a coherent and coordinated manner. He made that appeal in a message to the second meeting of the International Committee on the Reconstruction of Cambodia, being held in Tokyo today and tomorrow.

The Secretary-General hailed the rebirth of a new Cambodia. After last May's successful election, a new democratic Constitution had been adopted and a new Government established, with His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk as Head of State. Cambodia had reemerged as a sovereign, independent nation dedicated to peace and a better future, but the task of reconstruction had only just begun. He said the work of the Reconstruction Committee reaffirmed the commitment of the international community and the United Nations to the Cambodian people.

* * *

The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization today granted observer status to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Syria. The Special Committee also decided to permit the participation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in its consideration of the question of enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations.

The Special Committee is mandated to examine issues relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the strengthening of the role of the United Nations.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1600
11 March 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council urges parties in Cyprus to conclude agreement on confidence-building measures for Varosha and Nicosia Airport without delay; Secretary-General to report on progress by end of month.

+ Secretary-General to leave New York tomorrow for official visits to Argentina and Chile.

+ Member States owe United Nations $2.5 billion as of 28 February; $1.3 billion owed to regular budget and $1.2 billion to peace-keeping.

+ Secretary-General recommends that Security Council extend UNAVEM II mandate for three months to aid Angolan peace process; seeks increase, in principle, in authorized strength to help implement final settlement.

+ Women in occupied territories face gender discrimination, as well as Israeli oppression, observer for Palestine tells Commission on Status of Women; speakers also highlight obstacles to advancement in economies in transition.

+ United Nations Conference on Fish Stocks to meet at Headquarters from 14 to 31 March, with focus on conservation and management.

* * *

The Security Council today stressed the need for the two parties in Cyprus to conclude an agreement on implementation of confidence-building measures for Varosha and Nicosia International Airport without delay. Reiterating that the status quo was unacceptable, the Council welcomed the parties' acceptance in principle of the measures, and the fact that intensive discussions had allowed the Secretary-General's representatives to bring forward ideas facilitating an agreement. It took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 902 (1994).

The Council reaffirmed that the confidence-building measures, while not an end in themselves, or a substitute for the wider political process, would offer significant benefits to both communities and would facilitate the

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political process towards an overall settlement. It asked the Secretary-General to report by the end of this month on the outcome of his efforts to finalise an agreement.

In a report on his mission of good offices in Cyprus dated 4 March, the Secretary-General said an agreement on the confidence-building measures would be the most important development on the island in two decades. It would produce important economic gains for both sides and promote the kind of relationship that should exist in a federation.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will leave New York tomorrow to pay official visits to Argentina and Chile, at the invitation of their respective Governments, a United Nations spokesman announced today. He will be in Argentina during the first half of next week and in Chile during the second.

While in Chile, the Secretary-General will visit the Santiago-based Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the spokesman said. He noted that the Secretary-General had been making an effort to visit each of the Economic Commissions and to meet with their staffs.

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As of 28 February, the United Nations was owed a total of $2.5 billion by Member States, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, $1.3 billion was for assessments for the regular budget and $1.2 billion was for peace-keeping operations.

The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed almost $300 million to the regular budget, and more than $180 million to the peace-keeping budget, for the current year; it owed more than $230 million and $100 million respectively for prior years. Japan, Germany, the Russian Federation, France, the United Kingdom and Italy all had regular budget contributions outstanding for the current year, but not for previous years. However, the Russian Federation owed a total of $490 million in peace-keeping contributions.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), at its current strength, for another three months. In a report dated 9 March, he said the Mission was essential to ongoing efforts to achieve a comprehensive political settlement in Angola and to the humanitarian relief programme there.

The Secretary-General said that as soon as a peace agreement had been reached, he would send a technical mission to Angola and make recommendations for a new, enlarged United Nations mandate there. Experience had shown that it would take three to five months to deploy a full-fledged peace-keeping

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mission, and the Organization should therefore be ready to immediately deploy military and police observers in sensitive regions. He warned that failure to respond to developments could jeopardize a settlement at the most critical stages. In order to guarantee a timely response, the Council should authorize, in principle, an increase in UNAVEM II's strength to its previous level of 350 military observers, 126 police observers, 14 military medical staff, and an appropriate number of civilian staff. The extra personnel would only be deployed when a settlement had been reached or was imminent.

The Secretary-General called attention to the Mission's "very critical" financial situation, noting that outstanding assessed contributions exceeded $27 million. He also appealed to the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to guarantee the safety of relief workers and not to disrupt the provision of humanitarian aid.

* * *

Women in the occupied territories face the gender discrimination of a patriarchal society, in addition to Israeli oppression, the observer for Palestine told the Commission on the Status of Women today. The killing, imprisonment or deportation of their men meant that Palestinian women in the occupied territories headed 35 per cent of the households, he said. The Commission was concluding its general discussion on United Nations programming and coordination and on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

The representative of Pakistan expressed hope that changes in South Africa and the Israeli-occupied territories would help improve the conditions of women there. He also commended the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) for appointing women as one third of its candidates for next April's Constituent Assembly elections. The representatives of the Russian Federation and the Slovak Republic said that the transition to a market economy had particularly hurt women. New employment opportunities were being opened to women, but the current economic situation in Central and Eastern Europe restricted their access to financial and other resources.

* * *

The United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks will hold its second substantive session at Headquarters from 14 to 31 March. The Conference has a mandate from the General Assembly to solve long-standing problems of high seas fisheries, particularly regarding the conservation and management of fish stocks.

The Conference also has a mandate from the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to improve cooperation between States in the management of fisheries and to make recommendations on sustainable use and conservation. Its work must be consistent with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, particularly regarding the rights and obligations of coastal States and States fishing on the high seas.

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Participants will have before them a text summarizing the views expressed by delegations at the first substantive session last July. The text is not a negotiated document and does not reflect a consensus, but is meant to guide the next round of discussion.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1601
14 March 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General begins two-day official visit to Argentina; has meetings with President Menem and Argentinian Foreign Minister.

+ In report to Security Council, Secretary-General says UNPROFOR needs extra 8,250 troops, 150 military observers and 275 police monitors to implement mandate in Sarajevo and central Bosnia.

+ Secretary-General to send special mission to Afghanistan on 24 March to seek leaders' views on how United Nations can best aid national reconciliation and reconstruction.

+ Tajikistan asks Security Council to give United Nations peace-keeping status to Commonwealth of Independent States forces on its territory; says terrorist acts on Tajik-Afghan border threaten regional security.

+ Secretary-General expresses alarm over violence in run-up to El Salvador elections; urges all parties to exercise restraint and to work for implementation of 1992 peace accords.

+ Draft programme of action for Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States "in good shape," according to Chairman of Preparatory Committee.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today began a two-day official visit to Argentina by meeting with the country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Emilio Cardenas. He later met with President Carlos Saúl Menem, and expressed his appreciation for Argentina's contribution to United Nations activities and its role in the Security Council. They discussed the Organization's financial crisis and ways to overcome it, as well as President Menem's proposal for a corps of "white helmets" to fight world hunger. The two also discussed Haiti, and agreed on the need to continue efforts to unblock the impasse in the implementation of the Governors Island Agreement.

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The Secretary-General and Mrs. Boutros-Ghali later attended a lunch hosted in their honour by Ambassador Carlos Muniz, President of the Argentine Council for International Relations. He later paid a courtesy visit to the President of the Supreme Court of Justice, Julio Salvador Nazareno, and met with Argentina's Foreign Minister, Guido Di Tella. Tonight, the Secretary-General was scheduled to meet with members of the Argentine Council for Foreign Relations, and to address a dinner of the Council.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council increase the authorized strength of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) with a view to demilitarizing Sarajevo and keeping the peace in central Bosnia. In a report dated 11 March, he said UNPROFOR needed an extra 8,250 troops, 150 military observers and 275 police monitors. The Council, in resolution 900 (1994), had asked the Secretary-General to appoint an official to help restore normal life in Sarajevo, and to report on procedures to extend United Nations protection to the towns of Maglaj, Mostar and Vitez.

The Secretary-General said 2,200 of the extra troops would be needed in and around Sarajevo, and 6,050 in central Bosnia, including Mostar and Vitez. A further 1,500 would be needed if the Council were to extend the safe-area concept to Maglaj. He warned that UNPROFOR currently lacked the military resources to achieve its objectives and could lose the initiative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, despite numerous opportunities for progress. If Member States did not provided the necessary personnel, its mandate would have to be modified. "It would be a tragedy for the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina if the present opportunity were lost for lack of resources," he concluded.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to send a special mission to Afghanistan on 24 March to seek the views of a broad spectrum of Afghan leaders on how the United Nations can best aid national reconciliation and reconstruction. The mission will report to the Secretary-General, with recommendations for appropriate action, according to a United Nations spokesman.

The mission will be headed by Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri. Sitirios Mousouris, the Secretary-General's Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan, will act as his Deputy. The mission will include a number of other officials and will receive support from United Nations personnel in the region. As the principal Afghan leaders want the mission to visit their country as soon as possible, the Secretary-General is proceeding on the assumption that they will ensure adequate security conditions and freedom of access, the spokesman noted.

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Tajikistan has asked the Security Council to grant United Nations peace-keeping status to forces from the Commonwealth of Independent States now stationed on its territory. In a letter to the Security Council dated 11 March, Emomali Rakhmonov, Head of State and Chairman of the Suprememe Council of Tajikistan, said armed formations of the Tajik opposition, supported by some Afghan mujahidin groups, were carrying out terrorist attacks along the Tajik-Afghan border. The violence threatened stability and security in the entire region, and United Nations assistance was needed if a cease-fire were to succeed and armed formations to be disarmed.

The President noted that the agreement to deploy forces from the Commonwealth of Independent States in Tajikistan had been concluded within the framework of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, in order to guarantee the country's security and territorial integrity, and the stability of the region as a whole.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali yesterday expressed alarm about the violence in the closing days of the election campaign in El Salvador, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General appealed to all parties concerned, in the spirit of the historic 1992 peace accords, to exercise maximum restraint and to avoid violence and divisive rhetoric.

The Secretary-General said that the elections should be an occasion for reunifying Salvadorian society and promoting democracy, and that the population should work together to implement the peace accords.

* * *

The draft programme of action for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States is "in good shape," with the notable exception of the text on finance and technology, according to the Chairman of the Conference's Preparatory Committee. She made that comment on Friday as the Committee concluded a week of work for the Global Conference, which will be held from 25 April to 6 May in Barbados.

Speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China, Algeria expressed regret that their partners had not been more forthcoming in such key areas as financing and monitoring. The viability of the programme of action was at stake, he said, adding that the outcome of the Preparatory Committee was "rather disappointing." Trinidad and Tobago, speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, also expressed disappointment that little had been accomplished to guarantee financing for sustainable development. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, said the Barbados Conference would test the international community's commitment to the challenge of sustainable development.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1602
15 March 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement last night, condemns violation by Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of trade sanctions against it, after Bulgarian convoy carries diesel oil to Danube port of Prahovo.

+ Security Council demands immediate end to siege of Maglaj and condemns Bosnian Serb shelling of civilian population; also demands access to city for humanitarian aid convoys and UNPROFOR.

+ UNHCR appeals for $30 million to assist refugees and internally displaced people in Caucasus and central Asia.

+ As Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks begins, Canada says over-fishing has turned Grand Banks into "marine desert".

+ Preparatory Committee for 1994 World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction meets in Geneva.

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The Security Council last night strongly condemned the flagrant violation by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) of its resolutions prohibiting the shipment of commodities and products to the country. It took that action in response to an incident on 6 March, in which a Bulgarian convoy -- the "Han Kubrat" -- carried 6,000 tons of diesel oil to the Federal Republic via the Danube River port of Prahovo.

In a statement read out by its President, Jean-Bernard Merimee (France), the Council held the Federal Republic fully accountable for the non-return of the convoy's cargo. It called on the Bulgarian authorities to investigate the incident and to prosecute those responsible. The Council also invited the Yugoslav Government to respect its commitments to guarantee freedom and security of navigation on the Danube.

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In its second meeting last night, the Security Council demanded an immediate end to the siege of Maglaj and strongly condemned the indiscriminate shelling of civilians there by the Bosnian Serbs. In a statement read out by its President, Jean-Bernard Merimee (France), the Council also demanded that Bosnian and Croat Serbs allow humanitarian aid convoys access to the city and the evacuation of those needing urgent medical attention.

The Council said the situation in Maglaj had become intolerable because of the intensity of the nine-month siege, for which the Bosnian Serbs were primarily responsible. The Council expressed particular concern at the obstruction and looting of humanitarian aid convoys, and said it was appalled that not one had reached the city since last October. It condemned recent attacks against personnel of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). It also demanded that the Bosnian Serbs permit UNPROFOR unimpeded access to Maglaj.

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The UNHCR today launched an appeal for more than $30 million to support programmes for hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced people in the Caucasus and central Asia. The appeal covers a wide range of UNHCR-assistance programmes in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

In Armenia, the UNHCR says some 2.5 million people, out of a population of 3.5 million, face famine and health risks because of extremely harsh conditions and a lack of basic resources. In Tajikistan, where civil war destroyed nearly 17,000 homes and displaced more than 500,000 people, the UNHCR needs $13 million for shelter and infrastructure projects. In Azerbaijan, the agency will assist 300,000 refugees and displaced persons.

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The second substantive session of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks began at Headquarters yesterday. In his opening address, Conference Chairman Satya Nandan (Fiji) said steps had to be taken to protect fish stocks if a crisis were to be averted. Since the Conference's previous session last July, fisheries had continued to collapse, with severe consequences for fishing communities.

The Conference has a mandate from the General Assembly to find solutions to the problems of high seas fisheries, particularly regarding conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks. It will focus on a negotiating text, summarizing the views expressed by delegations last July, which deals with cooperation between States to ensure the sustainability of high seas resources.

In yesterday's discussion, Canada said States fishing under flags of convenience had devastated Grand Banks straddling stocks, turning the area into a "marine desert". Canada could not allow the stringent conservation

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practices of the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) to be wasted in that way.

* * *

The Preparatory Committee for the 1994 World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction yesterday began its current session in Geneva. The Committee was established by the General Assembly last year to review organizational and substantive preparations for the Conference, which will be held in Yokohama, Japan, in May. The Conference will review the accomplishments of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, chart a programme for future action, and highlight the need for disaster reduction policies.

The Committee yesterday elected Don Nanjira (Kenya) as its Chairman and established two working groups to consider a draft final document for the Conference and procedural matters.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1603
16 March 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ IAEA inspection team not allowed to carry out important inspection measures at Nyongbyon facility in Democratic People's Republic of Korea; cannot verify that nuclear material has not been diverted there.

+ Under-Secretary-General Annan tells Troop Contributors of UNPROFOR'S urgent need for extra personnel, flexible deployment, and improved logistics and transport capabilities.

+ Secretary-General leaves Argentina for official visit to Chile; tells Argentine Foreign Relations Council that States must make concessions to global concerns such as poverty, pollution and rights violations.

+ Erik Jensen appointed as Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Western Sahara.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says proposed expansion of UNAVEM II would cost $21 million for three months.

+ Widespread support expressed for peace-keeping memorial as Preparatory Committee for Fiftieth Anniversary of United Nations meets.

+ Experts meeting at Headquarters predict world economic growth of 2.2 per cent in 1994, compared with 1 per cent in 1993; foresee 6 per cent in trade and better terms of trade for commodity exporters.

* * *

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) announced today that a team of its inspectors had been allowed to carry out some important inspection measures at the radiochemical laboratory in Nyongbyon during its recent two-week visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. As a result of that refusal, the IAEA could not verify that there had been no diversion of nuclear material at the facility.

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According to the IAEA, the aim and scope of the inspection had been worked out in Vienna last February. The agreed inspection measures were in line with Agency requests regarding seven declared nuclear facilities in the People's Republic, and were designed to verify that nuclear material had not been diverted after previous inspections. The Agency's Board of Governors will hold a meeting on the matter next Monday.

* * *

Kofi Annan, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations, today reiterated that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) urgently needed an extra 10,650 troops, 100 military observers and 275 police monitors as a result of recent developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He cited the cease-fire and demilitarization in and around Sarajevo, and the recent cease-fire agreement between the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Croats. He told a Meeting of UNPROFOR Troop Contributors that the Force also needed the flexibility to adjust its deployment patterns to the changing priorities on the ground.

Mr. Annan noted that France had recently offered UNPROFOR an additional battalion of 800 troops and a reconnaissance squadron; the Russian Federation had offered 300 troops; Spain had offered 150 troops and 50 engineers; and the United Kingdom had offered a 900-strong battalion and some reconnaissance troops. Furthermore, the Czech Republic and Ukraine were expected to offer 500 and 600 additional troops, respectively, to strengthen their existing UNPROFOR contingents.

The Under-Secretary-General expressed the hope that any new troop offers would not include conditions precluding flexible deployment, and said offers to redeploy troops from Sarajevo and Central Bosnia "would not serve our immediate purposes." He also stressed that UNPROFOR needed better logistics and transport capabilities, particularly in the light of its dispersed deployment.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali this afternoon concluded his stay in Argentina and departed for an official visit to Chile. The Secretary-General met earlier in the day with a delegation from the Argentinian United Nations Fiftieth Anniversary Committee and received a progress report on the country's preparations for the event. He also visited the United Nations Information Centre and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Buenos Aires, and met with their staffs and with the heads of the United Nations agencies with programmes in Argentina.

In an address to the Argentine Council for Foreign Relations in Buenos Aires on Monday, the Secretary-General said that a Member State's contribution to the United Nations did not depend on its military power, population size, or the strength of its economy. Much depended on the political will of a

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State's leaders, and Argentina understood the value of multilateralism. It had demonstrated its commitment to the United Nations, and had been instrumental in international efforts to maintain Latin America as a nuclear-free zone.

The Secretary-General also noted that since the end of the cold war, great powers no longer funded poor countries to gain allies. While the end of militarism was welcome, the loss of interest in those countries was not. He stressed that if conflict were to be avoided, States must make concessions to global concerns. They must now focus on the real evils: poverty, starvation, disease, pollution, the absence of democracy, and infringements of human rights.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Erik Jensen as his Deputy Special Representative for the Western Sahara, according to a United Nations spokesman. Effective today, Mr. Jensen will have authority for the United Nations mission in the territory and will be responsible for coordinating its activities in the absence of the Special Representative.

Mr. Jensen has served with the United Nations mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), as Chairman of its Identification Commission, since last May. He will retain his position in the Commission, which is responsible for the identification and registration of those qualified to participate in the referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has estimated that it would cost almost $21 million to expand the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) for three months, as he recently recommended in a report to the Security Council. In an addendum to that report dated 14 March, he said UNAVEM II would thereafter cost $5.5 million per month. Those amounts would be in addition to the $2.1 million needed each month to maintain the mission at its current strength.

The Secretary-General had recommended that the Council authorize, in principle, an increase in UNAVEM II's strength to its previous level of 350 military observers, 126 police observers and 14 military medical staff. The extra personnel would only be deployed when a political settlement had been reached, or was imminent, in Angola.

The Secretary-General said that if the Council approved his recommendation, the costs should be considered an expense of the Organization to be borne by Member States. The assessments to be levied on Member States should be credited to the UNAVEM special account.

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The Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations yesterday heard widespread expressions of support for a proposed memorial to honour those who had given their lives in peace-keeping operations. Gillian Martin Sorensen, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser for Public Policy, said funds for memorial could be drawn from the Nobel Peace Prize money awarded to United Nations peace-keeping forces in 1988. She said said that if the Staff Union, Governments or others wanted to contribute they should be able to do so.

Ms. Sorensen also described Secretariat preparations for the 1995 anniversary, including developing educational materials and cooperating with the international media to promote the event. She noted that 34 national committees were already functioning and that 30 had been designated, and urged Governments that had not done so to proceed with establishing such committees.

* * *

The world economy should grow by 2.2 per cent this year, compared with a growth rate of 1 per cent growth in 1993, economists attending a four-day meeting at Headquarters said on Saturday. The economists, who belong to a network of forecasters known as Project LINK, predicted an increase of 6 per cent in world trade and better terms of trade for many exporters of primary commodities.

The figures were based on expectations of 5 per cent growth in developing countries, more than 3 per cent growth in North America, moderate growth in continental Western Europe, and slow growth in Japan. Growth was expected in a few countries in Central and Eastern Europe this year, but not in the States of the former Soviet Union until next year. The experts projected strong growth in 1995 as long as the monetary policies of developed countries did not become unduly restrictive. With persistent high unemployment in Western Europe, inflation was expected to remain at low levels.

The Project Link meeting, which was chaired by Nobel laureate Lawrence Klein, brought together experts from 50 national and regional economic institutes. It was held at the invitation of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, J.C. Milleron.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1604
17 March 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in resolution adopted last night, extends mandate of UNAVEM II until 31 May; decides not to impose, at present, extra sanctions against UNITA.

+ International observers report sharp increase in violence in Haiti, including 21 assassinations in last two weeks; supporters of President Aristide targeted.

+ Secretary-General meets with Chilean President in Santiago; says Chile's political and economic progress demonstrate link between peace, democracy and development.

+ Somali leaders General Aidid and Ali Mahdi Mohamed meet in Kenya under aegis of Secretary-General's Acting Special Representative for Somalia.

+ Federal Republic of Yugoslavia excluded from participation in meeting of States parties to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

* * *

The Security Council decided last night to extend the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) until 31 May and not to impose, at present, extra sanctions against the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). In unanimously adopting resolution 903 (1994), the Council reiterated its readiness to consider further sanctions or to review existing ones in light of progress in talks between the Angolan Government and UNITA. It strongly urged both parties, and in particular UNITA, to exercise maximum flexibility and good faith at the current crucial stage of negotiations.

The Council said it was ready, in principle, to consider promptly authorizing a strengthening of UNAVEM II to its previous level, if the parties reached an agreement. The Council invited the Secretary-General to proceed with contingency planning in that regard and to report to it by 4 April.

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The Council also demanded an end to offensive military action in Angola, and called on the Government and UNITA to achieve a sustainable cease-fire and a peaceful settlement without delay. It further called on them to guarantee unimpeded access for humanitarian aid and asked the international community to respond generously to the 1994 inter-agency appeal for Angola.

* * *

Recent reports from the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) have indicated an alarming increase in violence in that country, a United Nations spokesman said today. Between 1 and 15 March, observers from the joint United Nations/Organization of American States (OAS) Mission investigated 21 cases of assassination. The victims included ordinary citizens and members of trade unions and of popular movements. Many of those killed had been supporters of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

There are currently about 37 international observers in Port-au-Prince, of whom half are from the United Nations and half from the OAS, the spokesman noted.

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On the first full day of his official visit to Chile, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met this morning with the country's President, Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle. At a luncheon given in his honour by the President, the Secretary-General expressed thanks for Chile's support for the United Nations, noting that the country was host to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). He also paid tribute to Chile's peaceful transition to democracy and to its dynamic economy. Those achievements clearly demonstrated the link between peace, democracy and development, which provided the only sure basis for international peace and security, he said.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General met with Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa and discussed, among other issues, Chile's participation in United Nations peace-keeping operations, restructuring and expansion of the Security Council, and the 1995 Social Development Summit in Copenhagen.

* * *

General Mohamed Farah Aidid of the Somali National Alliance (SNA) and Ali Mahdi Mohamed of the United Somali Congress (USC) met today in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting took place in the hotel suite of the Secretary-General's Acting Special Representative for Somalia, Lansana Kouyate. It was the first time the two Somali political leaders had met since Decembr 1992.

A spokesman for the United Nations Opertation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) welcomed the meeting, and said it was encouraging that the two leaders could put aside their differences and start a dialogue. He noted that General Aidid had also met with repesentatives of several other Somali factions in the last four days.

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The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has been excluded from participating in the thirteenth meeting of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The States parties took that action at Headquarters yesterday, by approving an exclusion motion made by Bosnia and Herzogovina. Fifty-one States voted in favour of the motion, while the Federal Republic was alone in voting against it. There were 20 abstentions.

Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Croatia and Albania questioned the Federal Republic's claims of automatic succession to the international rights and obligations of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. They said no agreement had been reached on succession to those rights. The Yugoslav representative strongly objected to his country's exclusion from the meeting, saying it was inconsistent with the International Covenant. He stressed that the denial of the Federal Republic's legitimate right to participate meant it would no longer be bound to observe or participate in the Covenant.

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Correction:

In the Daily Highlights of Wednesday, 16 March, the first sentence in the paragraph at the bottom of page 1 should have read: "The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) announced today that a team of its inspectors had not been allowed to carry out some important inspection measures at the radiochemical laboratory in Nyongbyon during its recent two-week visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea."

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1605
18 March 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in paragraph-by-paragraph vote, adopts resolution condemning recent massacre of Palestinians in Hebron; calls on Israel to prevent illegal violence by Israeli settlers; also calls for temporary international or foreign presence, within context of peace process, to guarantee safety of Palestinians in occupied territory.

+ Secretary-General to send fact-finding mission to Burundi tomorrow, at request of Government, to investigate 1993 coup d'état and massacres.

+ Secretary-General and GATT Director-General appoint J. Denis Bélisle of Canada as Executive Director of UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre.

+ Croatia, in letter to Security Council, says it would accept extension of UNPROFOR mandate on its territory, but stresses that Force must fully implement relevant Council resolutions.

* * *

The Security Council today strongly condemned the massacre of Palestinian worshippers in Hebron on 25 February, and called on Israel to continue to take measures, including confiscation of arms, to prevent illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers. The Council also called for measures to guarantee the safety of Palestinian civilians throughout the occupied territory, including a temporary international or foreign presence, within the context of the ongoing peace process. Such a presence was provided for in the Declaration of Principles signed by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Washington last September. The Council took that action by adopting resolution 904 (1994) in a paragraph-by-paragraph vote.

The Council asked the co-sponsors of the peace process, the United States and the Russian Federation, to continue efforts to invigorate that process, and to undertake the necessary support for the implementation of the measures called for in today's resolution. The Council reaffirmed its support for the peace process and called for the implementation of the Declaration of Principles without delay.

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For information media—not an official record

All of the operative paragraphs in the resolution were adopted unanimously, but the United States abstained from voting on preambular paragraphs two and six. Preambular paragraph two referred to "occupied Palestinian territory", while preambular paragraph six reaffirmed "the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 to the territories occupied by Israel in June 1967, including Jerusalem, and the Israeli responsibilities thereunder".

Speaking in explanation of vote, United States Permanent Representative Madeline Albright said her Government had sought the unusual procedure of a paragraph-by-paragraph vote because it objected to the language used in the draft. She said the description of the territories occupied by Israel in 1967 as "occupied Palestinian territory" could be taken to indicate sovereignty, a matter which both Israel and the PLO had agreed must be decided in further negotiations. Had that language appeared in the operative paragraphs, the United States would have exercised its veto, she stressed.

* * *

At the request of the Government of Burundi, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is sending a fact-finding mission to that country tomorrow to investigate the coup d'état and massacres there last October. The mission will also examine with the Secretary-General's Special Representative and the Government what other activities might be undertaken in exercise of the Secretary-General's good offices, in accordance with the statement of the President of the Security Council of 16 November 1993.

The members of the mission will be: Siméon Aké (Chairman), former Foreign Minister of Côte d'Ivoire; Martin Huslid, former Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations; and Michèle Poliacof, Political Affairs Officer, Department of Political Affairs. They are expected to be in Burundi for two to three weeks, and will then spend a day in Addis Ababa to consult with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The mission is expected to return to New York around 15 April.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and the Director-General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Peter Sutherland, have jointly appointed J. Denis Bélisle as Executive Director of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)/GATT International Trade Centre. Mr. Bélisle, a Canadian national, will serve at the level of Assistant Secretary-General for three years. Prior to his current appointment, he was Canada's Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger.

The International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT promotes exports by developing countries and countries in transition, and is responsible for technical cooperation with developing countries in the field of trade promotion.

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Croatia has said that it is willing to accept the extension of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) mandate on its territory, but that the Force must improve its performance and fully implement relevant Security Council resolutions. In a letter to the Council dated 16 March, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman said UNPROFOR should not allow the hostile behaviour of militant Serbian insurgents in United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) to impede it. He contended that the Serbs were carrying out terrorist acts, threatening Croatia's territorial integrity, destabilizing its Government and undermining its society. The Security Council should take those terrorist acts into account when considering the problems of the UNPAs.

President Tudjman went on to say that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) must cooperate in the full and prompt implementation of the United Nations peace-keeping plan for Croatia. That included provisions dealing with the demilitarization of the UNPAs and the recognition of Croatia within its internationally accepted borders. He stressed that Croatia remained fully committed to the peace process and was ready to cooperate with UNPROFOR. Peace and stability in the region depended on the rapid and peaceful reintegration of the UNPAs into Croatia's legal and political system, he added.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

DH/1606
21 March 1994

MONDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

+ IAEA Board of Governors, in resolution adopted today, says Democratic People's Republic of Korea remains in non-compliance with nuclear safeguards agreement and has aggravated situation by not cooperating with IAEA inspectors; calls on country to permit all requested inspection activities and to comply fully with safeguards agreement.

+ On International Day for Elimination of Apartheid, Secretary-General says democratic process has defeated racial discrimination in South Africa.

+ ONUSAL hails yesterday's elections in El Salvador, praising "maturity and civic judgement" of electorate; notes lack of major incidents at 355 voting centres.

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The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) today determined that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea remained in non-compliance with its safeguards agreement and had aggravated that situation by not allowing IAEA inspectors to conduct indispensable inspection activities during their recent visit to the country. In a resolution adopted by its Board of Governors in Vienna today, the IAEA said it was thus unable to verify that there had been no diversion of nuclear material to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices since its last inspection in 1993.

The IAEA expressed regret at the stalemate in its efforts to resolve the safeguards issue, as requested by the Security Council, because of the lack of cooperation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Agency called on that country immediately to allow it to complete all requested inspection activities and to comply fully with the safeguards agreement.

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For information media--not an official record

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today that while violence and intimidation were a constant threat, the vision of South Africa's leaders, the will of its people and the support of the international community would enable the democratic process in that country to succeed. Speaking at a meeting held at Headquarters to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrmination, the Secretary- General said it was through democracy that racial discrimination had been defeated in South Africa. The Day marks the anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre in South Africa in 1960.

Also today General Assemby President S.R. Insanally said the eradication of apartheid in South Africa and the election of the country's first democratic Government would send a clear message to the world that reconcilation and harmony in a racially-mixed country were possible. However, he went on to say that more stringent measures must be taken to curb the political violence and intimidation which threatened the transition to democracy.

* * *

The United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) has welcomed yesterday's free elections in that country, noting that there had been no reports of major incidents. In a statement issued yesterday, the Mission congratulated the people of El Salvador for the maturity and civic judgement which they had demonstrated in the course of the elections.

ONUSAL said it would analyze information gathered by 900 observers in 355 voting centres and would soon declare its final opinion on the election.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1607
22 March 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General recommends that Security Council extend UNPROFOR mandate for 1 year, citing recent developments in Sarajevo and possibility of overall political settlement in former Yugoslavia; appeals to Member States to provide Force with adequate resources.

+ Co-Chairmen of International Conference on Former Yugoslavia to convene meeting of Steering Committee to discuss international efforts to promote peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

+ Secretary-General says situation in Haiti does not allow for reactivation of UNMIH, but proposes that Security Council extend mandate by three months in case political impasse is breached.

+ UNHCR launches "Operation reUNite" to collect and distribute information about children separated from their parents by conflict in former Yugoslavia.

+ Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommends creation of international tribunal to prosecute genocide and crimes against humanity.

+ Secretary-General tells Conference on Decade of International Law that international legal norms and principles are dynamic resource for promoting human rights, security and development.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) be renewed for another 12 months beyond 31 March. In a report to the Security Council dated 16 March, he said that recent developments around Sarajevo indicated that an overall political settlement could be within reach in the former Yugoslavia, and that UNPROFOR reflected the will of the international community to help the parties reach such a settlement. He added that he had recommended a 12-month mandate in the interests of efficiency, although the duration might be reduced if the situation on the ground improved.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

The Secretary-General stressed that the parties in the former Yugoslavia must demonstrate -- on the ground and at the negotiating table -- their commitment to achieving peace. For its part, UNPROFOR would continue to make every effort to prevent conflict from resuming or escalating, provide a breathing space for diplomatic efforts, and support the provision of essential humanitarian aid. In the long term, the international community would help bring peace to the former Yugoslavia and stability and normal economic relations to the wider region.

The Secretary-General noted that he had had doubts as to whether UNPROFOR was a worthwhile use of the Organization's limited peace-keeping resources. In that regard, he also cited the considerable -- but unjustified -- criticism of UNPROFOR's effectiveness, mounting threats to the safety of United Nations personnel, and the continuing failure of Member States to honour their commitments to the Force in full and on time. He appealed to all States to provide the material and personnel resources necessary for UNPROFOR to fulfil its responsibilities.

* * *

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, will soon convene a meeting of the Conference's Steering Committee to discuss recent developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, a United Nations spokesman announced today. That decision was taken yesterday, when the Co-Chairmen met with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to discuss international efforts to promote peace settlements in the former Yugoslavia and to plan for reconstruction and rehabilitation there.

The spokesman noted that Mr. Stoltenberg had this afternoon briefed the Security Council on the latest developments.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that there has been no change in the Haitian situation that would allow the reactivation of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH). However, in a report dated 18 March, he suggested that the Security Council extend UNMIH's mandate in its present form for three months so that the Mission could be reactivated in the event of a breach in the political impasse. The existing mandate expires tomorrow.

The Secretary-General noted that Haitian Parliamentarians had recently agreed on a plan to resume implementation of the Governors Island Agreement, which he viewed as a "significant development." The plan had been endorsed by the Chamber of Deputies and efforts were underway to gain a similar endorsement from the Senate. However, Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide had rejected the plan, saying that it might contradict the Governors Island Agreement.

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The Secretary-General went on to say that efforts to resolve the situation continued unabated, and that his Special Representative and staff were working tirelessly to identify common ground between the parties.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today launched "Operation reUNite", a programme aimed at collecting and distributing information about children separated from their parents by the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The UNHCR estimates the number of those children at 40,000 to 60,000.

The UNHCR will work with Uncompanied Children in Exile (UCE) and other voluntary agencies to collect registration forms and children's photographs. That information will be distributed to ten computer centres in the former Yugoslavia and Western Europe. According to the UNHCR, many children know where their parents live, but other details are sketchy. The programme will allow parents to cross-reference computer files using such information as nicknames, age, sex, and hair colour to locate their children.

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The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has recommended the establishment of an international tribunal to prosecute genocide and crimes against humanity. Such crimes would include murder, extermination, enslavement, torture, rape and persecution on political, racial and religious grounds, and other inhumane acts against civilians. The Tribunal would also have juristiction over grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Protocols.

The Committee, which met in Geneva last week, made its recommendation because of the growing number of racially and ethnically motivated massacres and atrocities in different parts of the world. The Committee also asked that that the Centres for Human Rights collect all relevant information on such crimes so that it could be made immediately available to an international tribunal.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today said that the Decade of International Law provided an unparalleled opportunity for the United Nations, Member States and specialized agencies to promote peace and security through the application of international legal norms and principles. Protecting human rights, creating a new framework of international security, and achieving progress towards development were the real challenges of the post-cold-war era, he said in a message to the Conference on International Legal Issues Arising under the Decade. The Conference has been organized by host-State Qatar and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee.

The Secretary-General said international law was a dynamic resource of enormous potential, but its ultimate effectiveness depended on the political

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will of States. With a firm commitment to the spirit of international law, a system of international relations could be built that would protect the rights and dignity of the individual, promote mutual respect among nations, and improve the prospects for global development.

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